So You Want to Build a Wind Farm

How to get started
Rich Stromberg – Wind Program Mgr



Energy Efficiency First



- Make homes, workplaces and communities energy efficient thru weatherization and efficient lighting/appliances.
- Because of PCE, residential rate payers won ☐ see much benefit from a wind farm.
- Once efficient, pursue renewable energy. Otherwise,
 money is wasted to build an oversized system.
- EE makes economic sense faster payback (2-3 years vs.
 15-20 for wind projects in rural Alaska) than any other option and immediate reduction in monthly heat and electric bills.

- Anecdotal weather data or observations
 can be deceptive. For example:
 - A few windy days get some people wanting to install wind turbines.
 - It only takes one rainy day for people to think that fire danger is reduced.
 - A short cold spell can fool us into not seeing an overall warming trend.
 - Our bodies can sense the weather, but we need to
 collect data to understand the long-term climate.
- What matters is the wind speed throughout the course of an entire year.

- The formula for wind power is:
- Power = $0.5 \times \text{Rotor Swept Area} \times \text{Air Density} \times \text{Velocity}^3$
- Thus, doubling the wind speed from 3
 meters/sec to 6 meters/sec increases the
 power by 8X.
- 7 meters/sec wind speed adds another
 58% increase in wind power over 6 meters/sec.

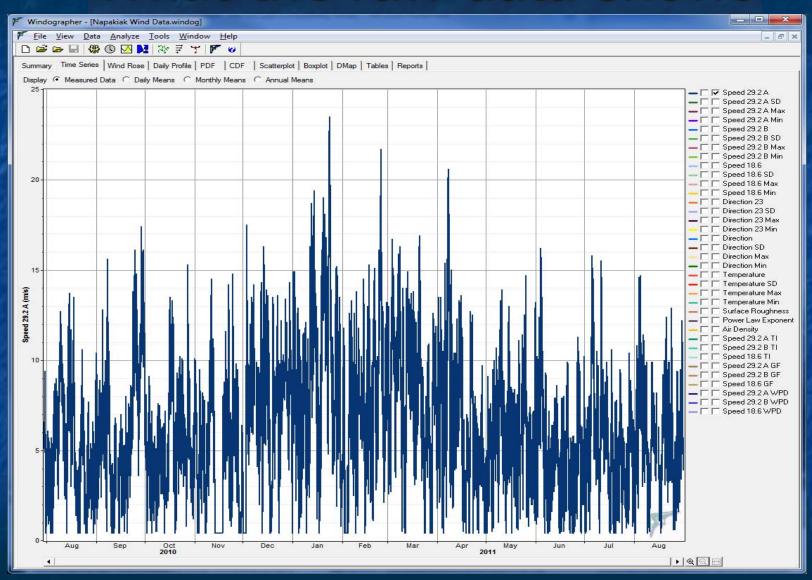
Measure the wind for a minimum of one year.



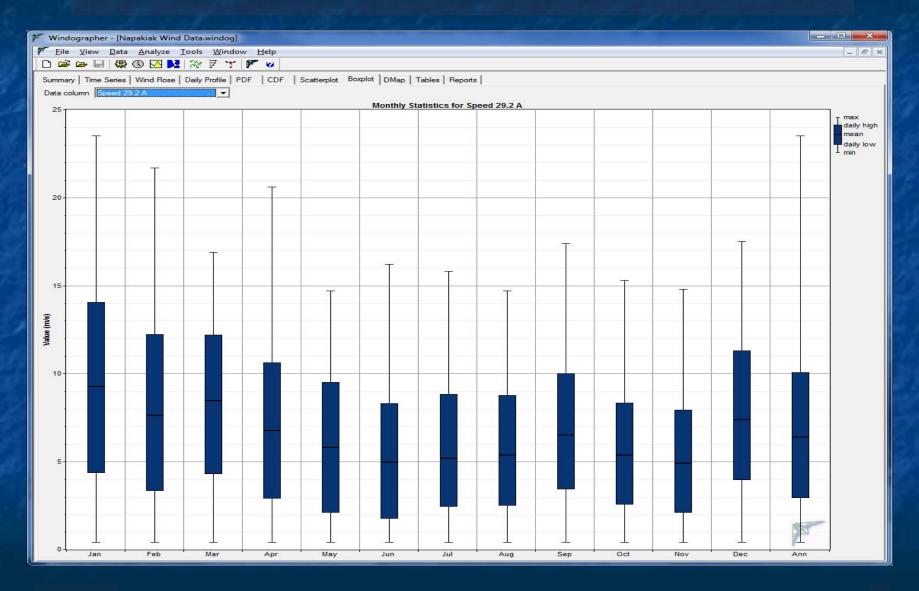
Met towers require a permit from the FAA
 and consultation with US Fish & Wildlife,
 State Historic Preservation Office and possibly other agencies.



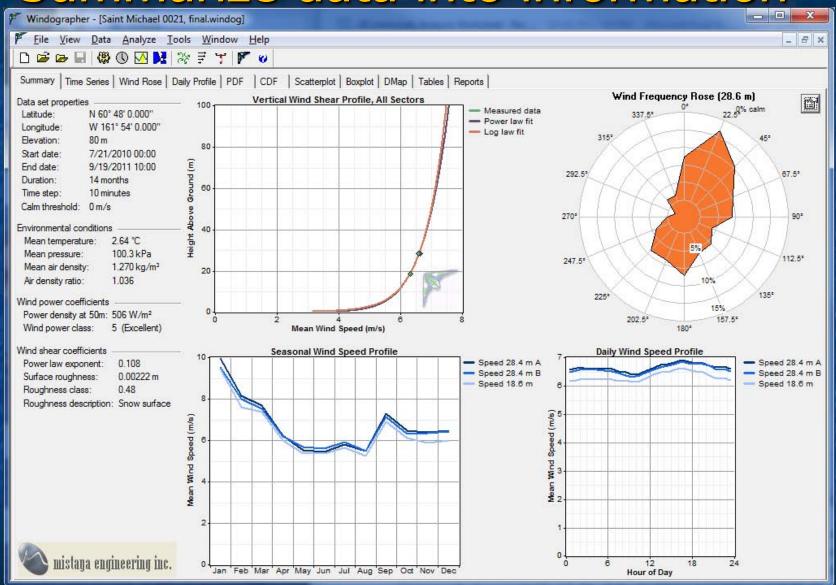
What the raw data shows



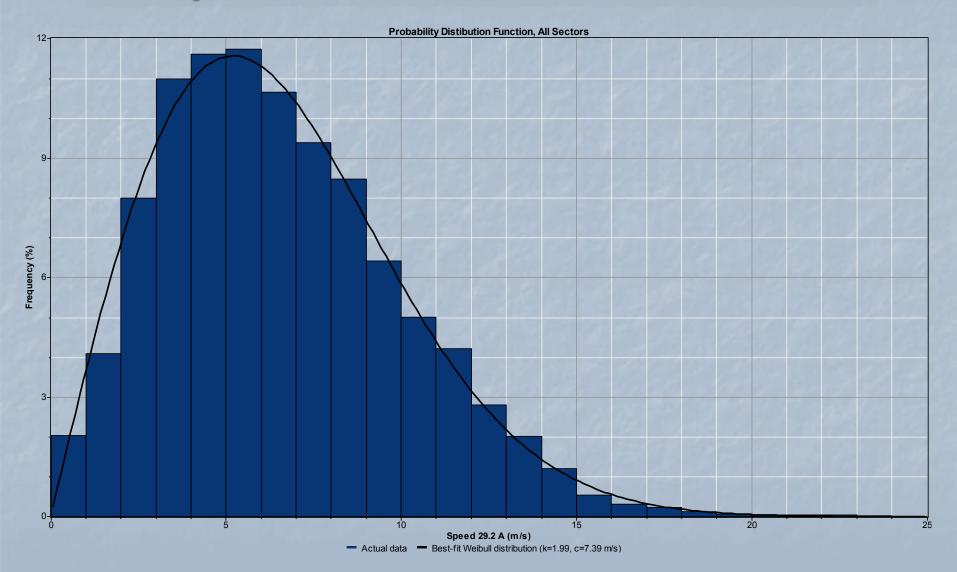
Summarize data into information



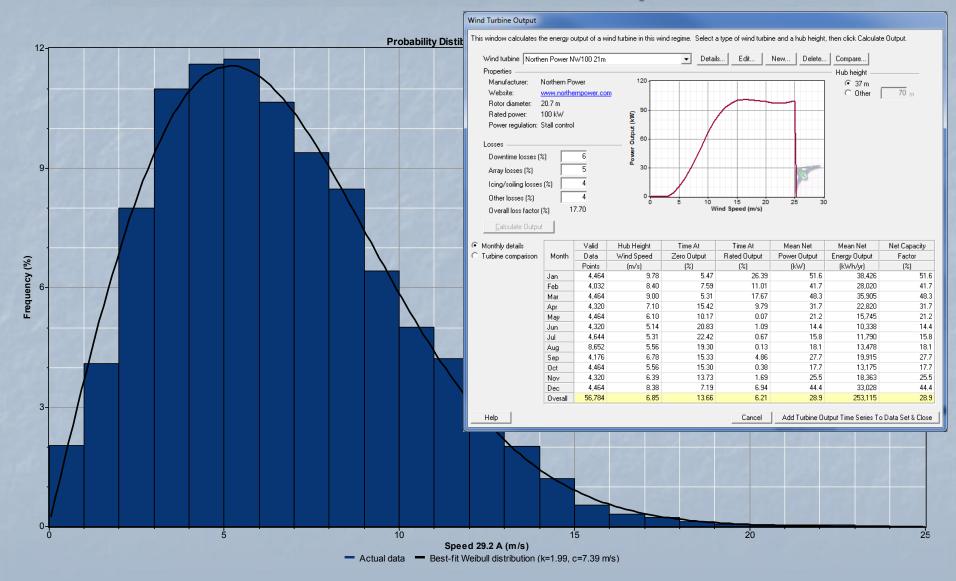
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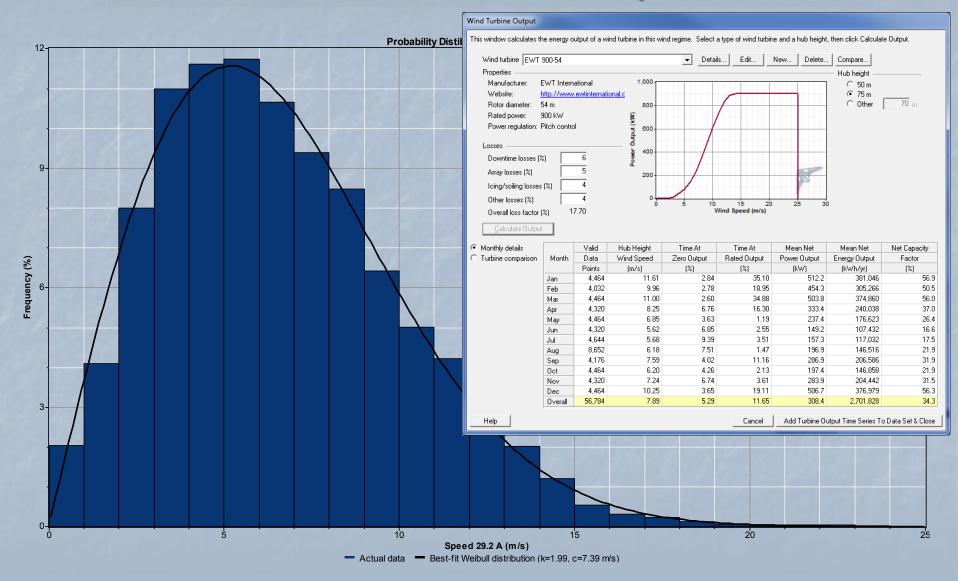
Shape of the wind distribution



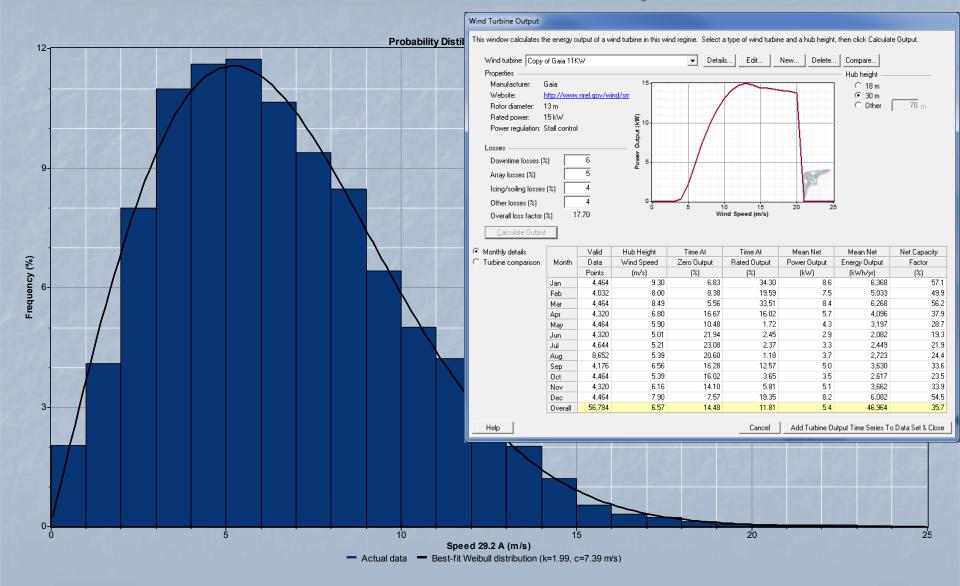
Wind distribution vs. turbine power curve

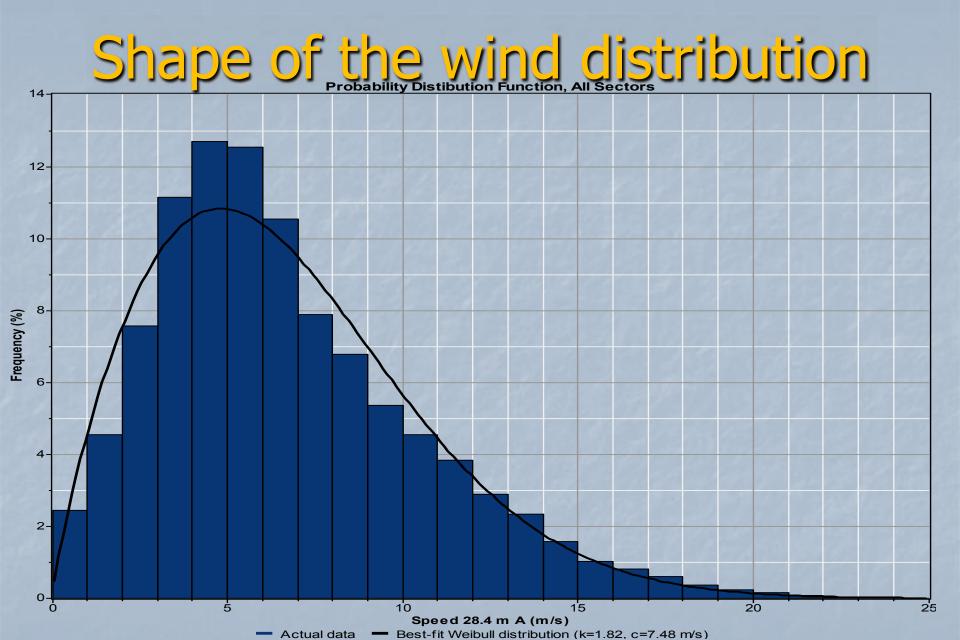


Wind distribution vs. turbine power curve

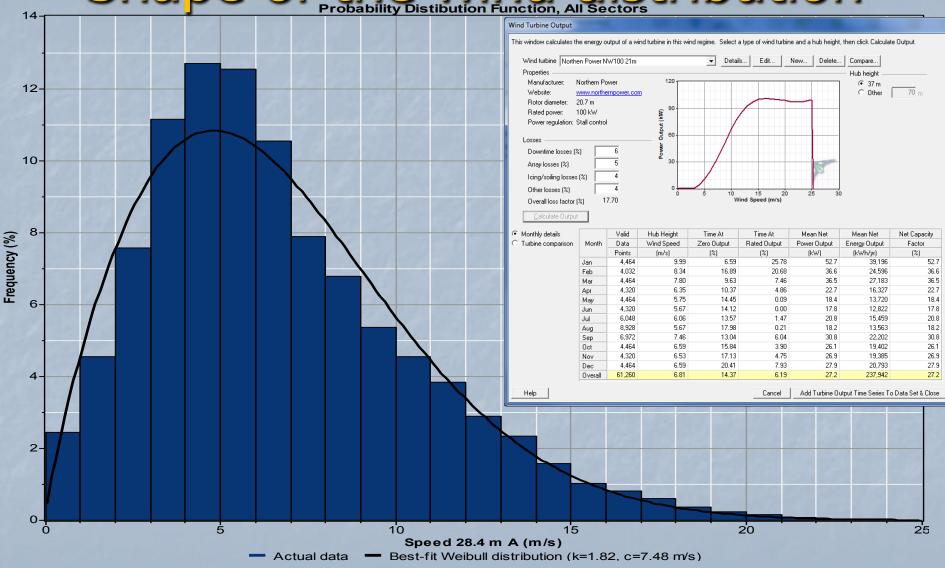


Wind distribution vs. turbine power curve

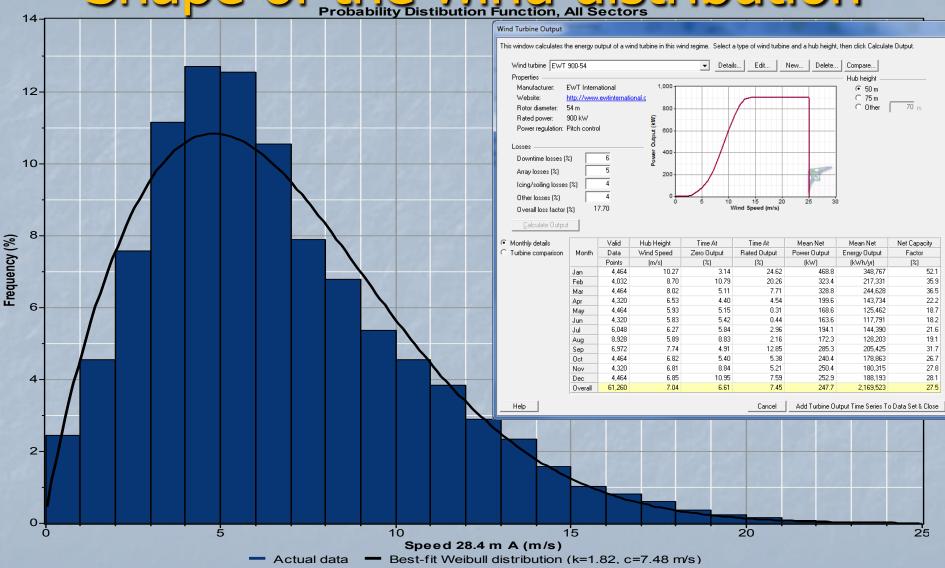




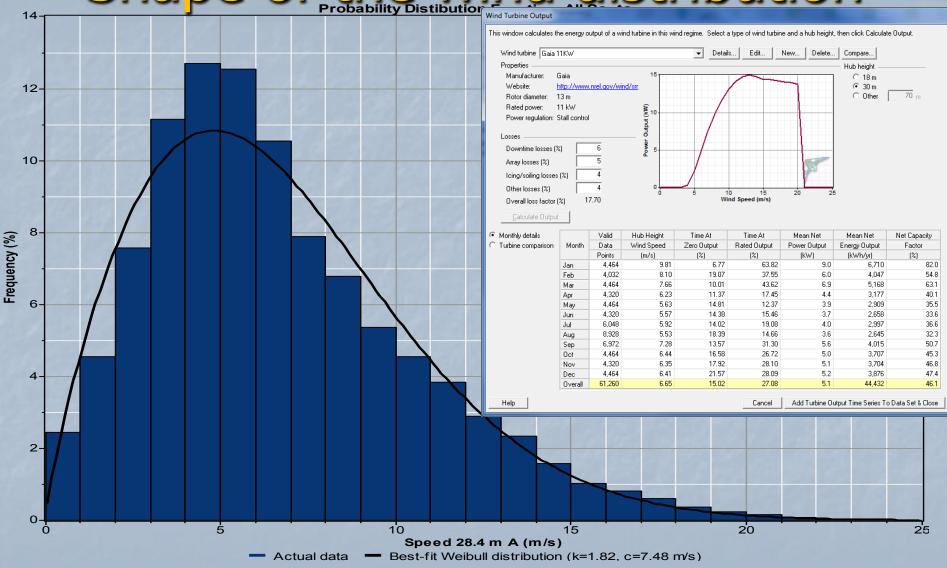
Shape of the Wind distribution Probability Distibution Function, All Sectors



Shape of the Wind distribution Probability Distibution Function, All Sectors



Shape of the wind distribution



Stop! Do you really want to attempt this on your own?

- Village and utility must be partners MOU.
- Contact your regional Native corporation to see
 if they have engineering resources or can help fund the project.
- Request proposals (RFP) from engineering firms,
 environmental permitting consultants and project management companies.
- Even experienced utilities like AVEC, Kodiak
 Electric and GVEA partner with consultants.

Can your existing electrical distribution system support wind technology?

- Do you have newer diesel gensets with fast, electronic injection controls or mechanical governors?
- Are your gensets sized so that you can run at optimum fuel efficiency both when the wind is blowing and when it ☐ calm?
- Are your distribution lines, transformers and meters up to code?
- Are your phases balanced?
- If you can ☐ answer ☐ to all of these questions, you could save more money by fixing your existing power system.

Can your existing electrical distribution system support wind technology?



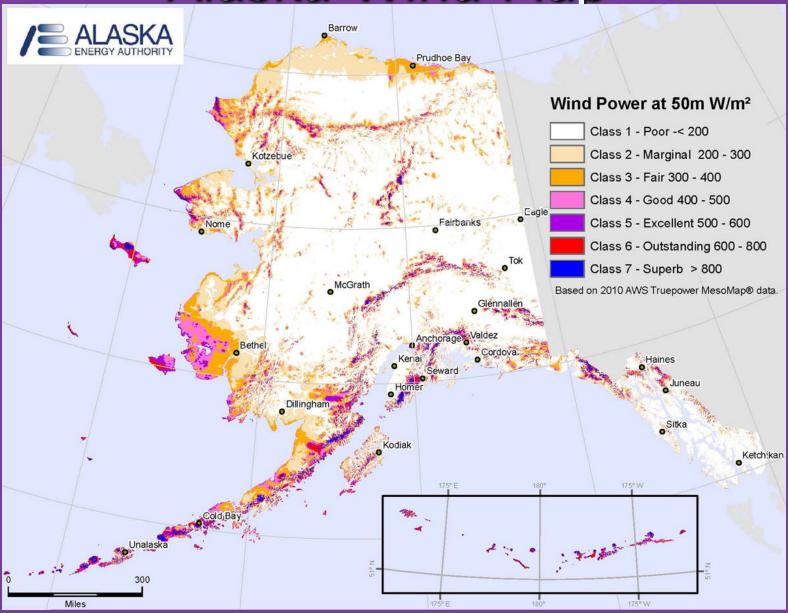
Can your existing electrical distribution system support wind technology?



Pick a potential site

- Pick a site that is close to the existing power distribution grid.
- Site should have little or no tall vegetation and no buildings to block prevailing winds.
 - Site met tower at a minimum distance that is 5X the height of any obstructions.
- Consult AEAI3 Energy Pathway document (
 ftp://ftp.aidea.org/AlaskaEnergyPathway8-12Press.pdf), the Community Database (
 ftp://ftp.aidea.org/2010AlaskaEnergyPlan/2010%20Alaska%20Energy%20Plan/Community%20Deployment%20Scenarios/) and the state wind resource maps.

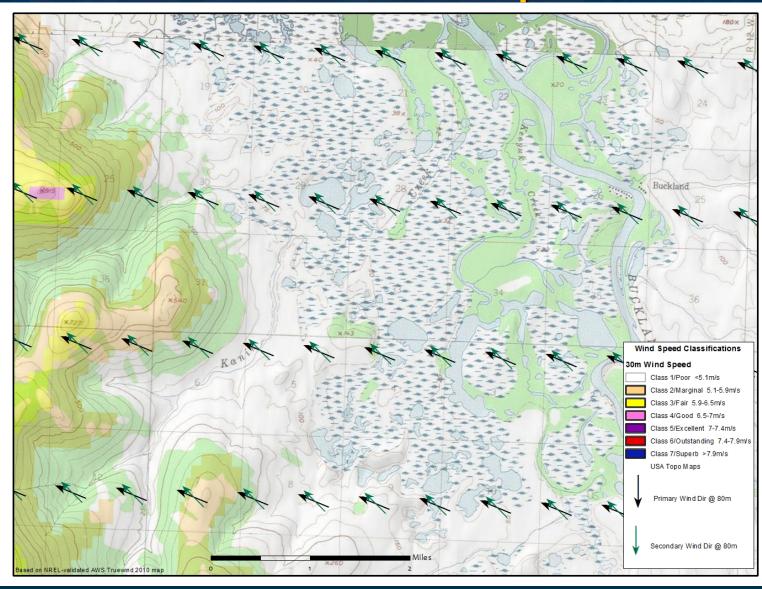
Alaska Wind Map



Wind Resource Maps

<u>Buckland</u>

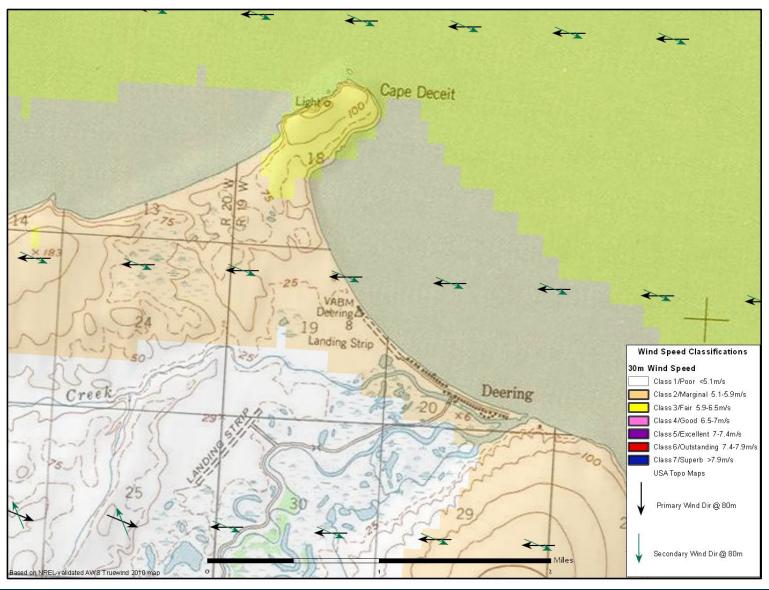
AEA - Alaska Wind Speed Map



Wind Resource Maps

Deering

AEA - Alaska Wind Speed Map

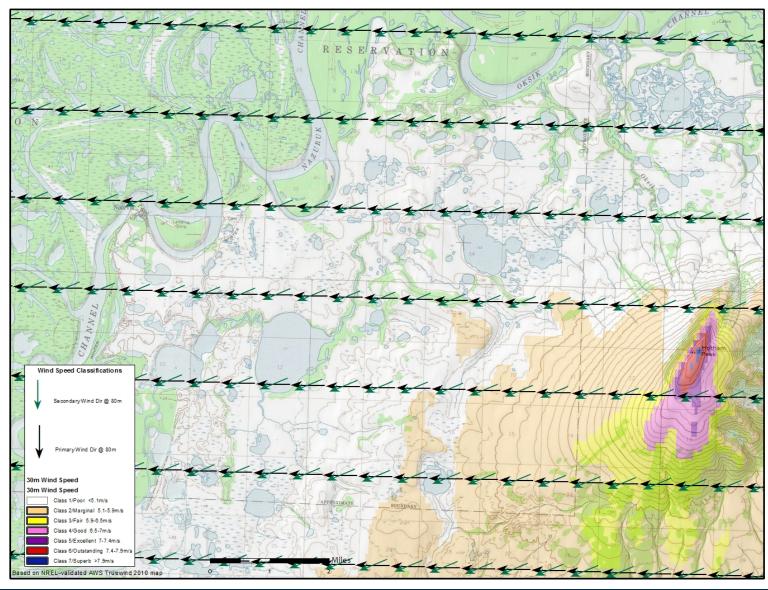


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Wind Resource Maps

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A - Alaska Wind Speed Map



Wind Classifications

- Class 1/Poor: Pursue options other than wind
- Class 2/Marginal: High costs of development in rural Alaska prevent an economical project.
- Class 3/Fair: A large project on the Railbelt may be cost effective.
 Remote village projects may have a payback longer than the 20-year life of wind turbines.
- Class 4/Good: A well-designed project will have a payback of 15-20 years.
- Class 5/Excellent: A well-designed project will have a payback of 12-15 years.
- Class 6/Outstanding: A well-designed project will have a payback of
 10-12 years, but damaging high-wind events may be a concern.
- Class 7/Superb: Project developer may want to find a sheltered site to protect turbines from periodic damaging winds.

Set up a met tower

34-meter tower set up for at least one year.

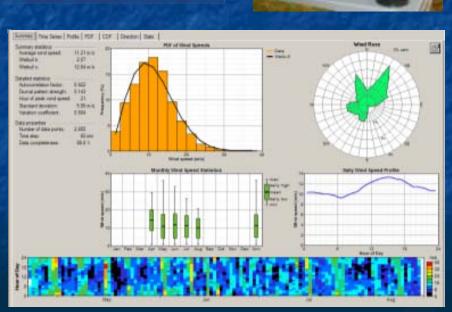
Wind speeds are generally higher in the winter and lower in the summer.

Icing and turbulence can eliminate a

potential site.







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Set up a met tower

 Finding suitable anchors in permafrost, logging slash or rocky soils can be difficult.



Set up a met tower

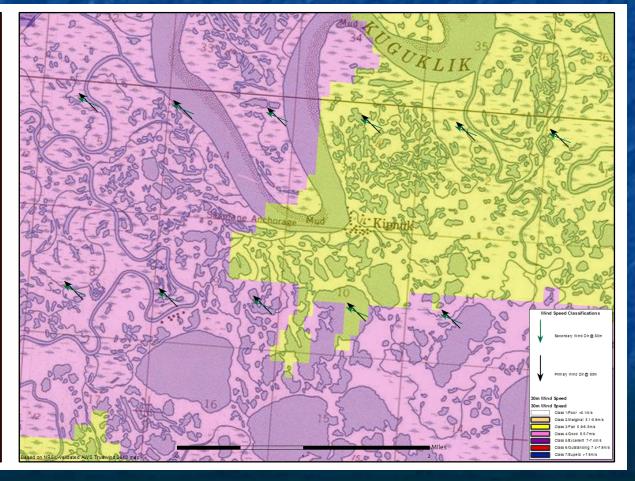
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Siting your met tower

Some communities have relatively consistent terrain

Kipnuk AEA - Alaska Wind Speed Map

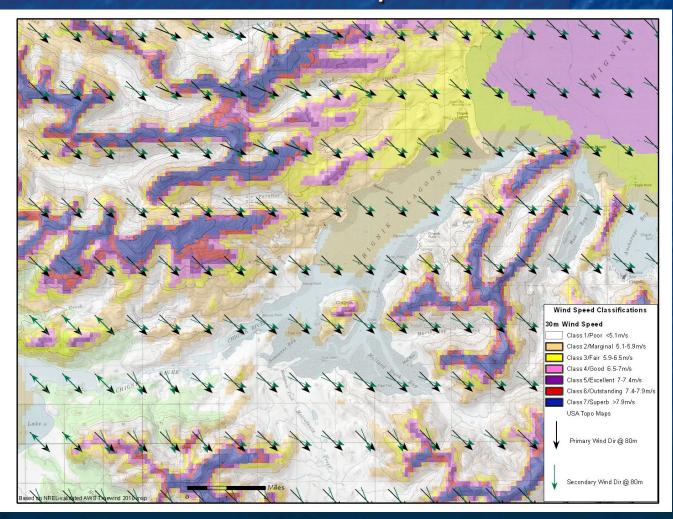


Siting your met tower

Other communities have complex terrain

Chignik Region

AEA - Alaska Wind Speed Map



Portable met towers

- Install multiple 10meter towers simultaneously to identify the best location for a long term study
- Tower costs ~ \$1,000
- Weighs 75 lbs.
- Can be erected with two people and hand tools.



Project milestones *

Feasibility / \$120k-\$140k:

- Purchase, ship and erect met tower
- Obtain site control, right of entry and permits for met tower
- Geotech site recon visit and report
- Dismantle met tower
- Draft and final wind and solar resource analysis
- Draft and final conceptual design report

Permitting/Design / ~\$250k

- Permitting
- Negotiate site control
- Avian and other environmental analyses
- 65% Civil, Mechanical, and Electrical Design
- Revise Budget and Schedule

^{*} This is the bare minimum. Some projects require additional steps.

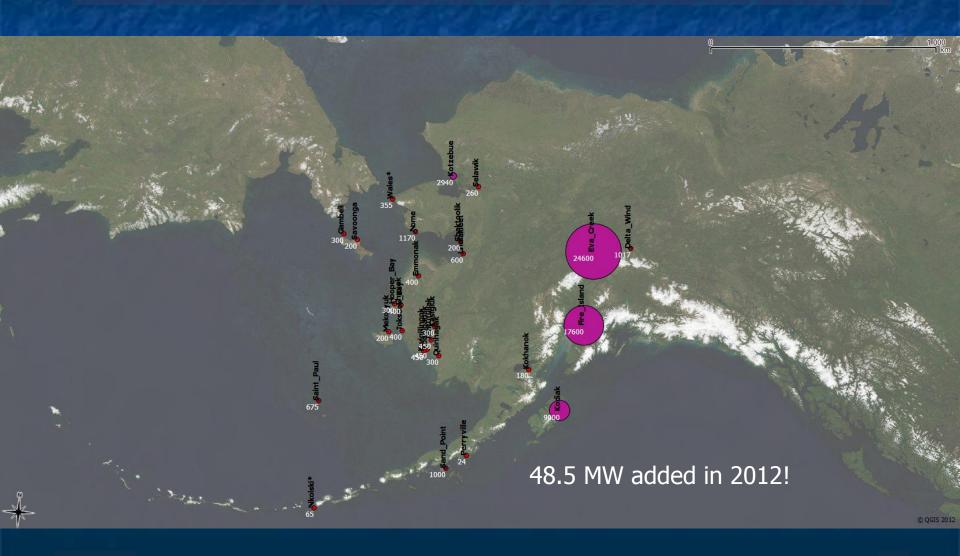
Project sizing and economics

Penetration Class	Operating Characteristics	Penetration	
		Instantaneous	Average
LOW	Diesel runs full-time Wind power reduces net load on diesel All wind energy goes to primary load No supervisory control system	< 50%	< 20%
MEDIUM	Diesel runs full-time At high wind power levels, secondary loads are dispatched to insure sufficient diesel loading or wind generation is curtailed Requires relatively simple control system	50% – 100%	20% – 50%
HIGH	Diesels may be shut down during high wind availability Auxiliary components are required to regulate voltage and frequency Requires sophisticated control system	100% – 400%	50% – 150%

- Projects that are too small won ☐ take advantage of economies of scale.
- Projects that are too large may have excess power that never gets used.

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Installed Wind Capacity – 63.8MW







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Kotzebue EWT 900s + Battery

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www.akenergyauthority.org